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Weekly Crop & Weather Roundup

Week Ending October 10, 2004

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This report can be found on the Internet at www.nass.usda.gov/pa

Excellent Week for Field Work: Last week brought excellent weather in many areas of the Keystone state. Autumn brought cooler temperatures last week, causing some areas up north to be on frost alert; however, sunshine prevailed throughout the state allowing many areas to dry out from previous rainfall. Six days were suitable for field work and principal farm activities included plowing, finishing the last cutting of hay, harvesting corn and soybeans, cutting silage, sowing barley and wheat, picking fruit, spreading manure, lime, and fertilizer, harvesting potatoes, and preparing equipment for winter weather.

PA Topsoil Moisture for Week Ending October 10, 2004

Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent
0	0	85	15

Crops: Corn progress remained accelerated throughout last week. Over 90 percent of this year's corn crop is now mature, with 49 percent of the crop already harvested. Both figures are well ahead of last year and the 5-year average. Corn crop condition improved moderately from last week as 87 percent of the crop is rated as either good or excellent. The soybean harvest is under way and now stands at about 15 percent complete. Ninety-two percent of this year's soybean crop is rated as either good or excellent. The potato harvest is almost complete. Drier field conditions have allowed farmers much progress with fall plowing and sowing barley and winter wheat. Ninety percent of barley and 56 percent of winter wheat has now been planted. Much better hay was made this week as opposed to last. Seventy-five percent of hay made last week was rated as either good or excellent.

The weather allowed farmers to get out and nearly complete the apple harvest, which is at 97 percent. This is well ahead of historic trends. The grape harvest really took off last week and is now 75 percent complete.

Livestock: Pasture conditions remain in tough shape as a result of this year's rainfall. Pasture conditions now stand at 7 percent very poor, 5 percent poor, 22 percent fair, 48 percent good, and 18 percent excellent.

U.S. As of October 3, 2004: Highlights: Tropical Storm Jeanne brought heavy precipitation to the southern and middle Atlantic Coast States, flooding fields and delaying cotton and peanut harvests. Corn: The dent stage advanced to 97 percent complete, compared with 99 percent for last year and the 5-year average. Seventy-four percent of the acreage was mature, 13 percentage points behind last year and 15 points behind normal. Growers had harvested 23 percent of their acreage, 1 point behind last year and 5 points behind the average. Winter Wheat: Planting reached 58 percent complete, 1 point behind last year but 4 points ahead of normal. Twenty-nine percent of the crop had emerged, compared with 28 percent last year and 27 percent for the 5-year average. Soybeans: Leaves had dropped on 86 percent of the acreage, the same as last year but 2 points behind normal. Harvest advanced to 36 percent complete, 5 points ahead of last year and 4 points ahead of the 5-year average. Sorghum: Turning color advanced to 92 percent complete, 3 points ahead of last year but 3 points behind the average. Maturation, at 63 percent complete, was 1 point behind last year and 15 points behind normal. Thirty-eight percent of the acreage had been harvested, compared with 40 percent last year and 53 percent for the 5-year average.

Weather Data For Week Ending October 10, 2004

Station	Last Week Weather Summary						April 1 - October 10, 2004					
	Temperature				Precipitation		Precipitation			GDD Base 50F		Base 40F
	High	Low	Average	DFN	Total	Days	Total	DFN	Days	Total	DFN	Total
Northwest												
Erie	75	39	57	2	0.03	1	24.54	0.62	82	2,723	169	4,474
Franklin	76	34	53	-1	0.00	0	38.09	12.29	97	2,572	222	4,344
Meadville	72	33	52	-1	0.00	0	33.36	7.47	90	2,426	274	4,164
Mercer	76	22	49	-5	0.00	0	31.57	7.00	80	2,040	-288	3,756
Springboro	74	34	52	-4	0.03	1	33.91	10.77	99	2,352	-156	4,077
Warren	76	33	52	-1	0.01	1	40.12	14.08	105	2,426	156	4,178
North Central												
Bradford Region	74	26	50	0	0.00	0	28.36	2.42	97	1,980	348	3,673
Emporium	78	34	53	4	0.00	0	36.77	11.18	92	2,574	716	4,342
Kane	70	22	43	-6	0.00	0	33.84	7.38	84	1,246	-348	2,845
Laporte	70	34	51	-2	0.00	0	43.78	19.83	101	2,208	-113	3,933
Lock Haven	76	33	54	0	0.16	2	43.87	20.32	78	2,883	413	4,715
Port Allegheny	76	29	50	0	0.00	0	31.99	7.33	89	2,159	355	3,867
Renovo	75	36	55	2	0.25	5	36.42	12.87	91	2,798	328	4,603
Ridgway	76	28	49	-2	0.00	0	35.37	9.78	77	2,122	264	3,834
Stevenson Dam	78	35	54	5	0.01	1	37.68	12.09	86	2,660	802	4,446
Towanda	77	33	55	2	0.00	0	32.01	12.09	84	2,693	354	4,469
Wellsboro	75	29	50	0	0.00	0	38.00	17.90	86	2,104	358	3,820
Williamsport	76	35	56	2	0.00	0	35.39	12.17	98	3,042	319	4,886
Northeast												
Hawley	76	30	52	1	0.00	0	36.76	14.18	71	2,289	290	4,019
Wilkes-Barre/Sc	75	32	54	-1	0.00	0	30.41	8.47	79	2,803	221	4,613
Susquehanna	76	32	54	4	0.00	0	37.08	12.91	83	2,734	844	4,521
West Central												
Butler	76	31	52	-2	0.00	0	36.34	12.05	102	2,550	111	4,318
New Castle	81	34	55	2	0.00	0	37.27	14.91	76	2,835	391	4,616
Slippery Rock	77	32	53	1	0.00	0	35.97	12.18	97	2,638	448	4,428
Central												
Altoona/Blair	74	33	54	-1	0.00	0	36.73	15.46	93	2,730	138	4,516
DuBois	74	31	53	0	0.01	1	36.50	12.06	114	2,389	155	4,141
Lewistown	77	36	55	-1	0.00	0	33.14	10.32	74	3,052	204	4,888
Middletown	76	42	58	2	0.02	2	38.90	16.18	81	3,503	281	5,377
Prince Gallitzi	75	28	53	1	0.00	0	36.00	8.64	84	2,405	320	4,157
Selinsgrove	77	37	55	1	0.00	0	35.72	11.94	83	2,954	299	4,777
State College	73	36	54	1	0.00	0	36.06	14.57	78	2,817	267	4,619
East Central												
Allentown-Bethel	76	34	56	0	0.00	0	32.77	8.00	72	3,173	232	5,026
Lehighton	79	34	53	-3	0.00	0	37.41	12.70	91	2,790	-42	4,610
Matamoras	76	33	53	-2	0.00	0	32.96	8.02	74	2,487	-63	4,263
Tobyhanna	76	32	55	6	0.00	0	42.09	15.41	105	2,434	711	4,188
Southwest												
Pittsburgh/Alle	76	34	56	2	0.01	1	30.25	7.67	88	3,053	439	4,873
Derry	78	32	55	2	0.00	0	39.68	16.17	91	2,741	275	4,538
Myersdale	76	33	54	1	0.00	0	31.71	6.03	79	2,234	-201	3,980
Mount Pleasant	77	30	52	-2	0.00	0	34.38	7.60	70	2,703	499	4,488
Pittsburgh Intl	75	35	55	0	0.00	0	33.56	12.41	87	3,073	336	4,891
Rector	78	28	53	1	0.12	1	38.93	12.15	102	2,758	554	4,556
Waynesburg	76	33	54	1	0.00	0	33.76	10.79	84	2,814	282	4,609
South Central												
Biglerville	77	36	57	-1	0.00	0	37.77	16.19	81	3,190	40	5,031
Everett	76	30	52	-3	0.02	1	34.48	13.68	74	2,416	-173	4,164
Hanover	77	35	57	-1	0.00	0	34.09	12.51	71	3,296	146	5,141
Shippensburg	78	35	56	-2	0.00	0	40.92	19.91	79	3,334	198	5,178
South Mountain	72	32	52	-3	0.00	0	35.25	13.98	66	2,660	76	4,438
York	78	34	56	-2	0.00	0	28.31	5.38	65	3,284	142	5,136
Southeast												
Green Lane	76	36	57	3	0.00	0	38.17	14.20	76	3,514	702	5,393
Hamburg	77	37	57	4	0.00	0	35.45	7.70	85	3,190	638	5,044
Hopewell	77	37	57	-2	0.00	0	37.44	12.27	99	3,245	-74	5,101
Lancaster	76	38	58	2	0.00	0	33.38	9.17	84	3,309	333	5,174
Neshaminy Falls	81	40	59	4	0.00	0	35.71	8.00	69	3,495	559	5,366
New Holland	76	37	58	2	0.00	0	34.99	10.78	84	3,306	330	5,156
Philadelphia	77	45	61	2	0.00	0	31.49	8.04	69	3,845	407	5,731
Philadelphia NE	77	41	60	2	0.00	0	35.15	11.70	74	3,717	279	5,600
Reading	77	36	58	2	0.00	0	35.24	9.45	77	3,358	440	5,225
Valley Forge Na	82	33	57	-2	0.00	0	37.50	12.33	66	3,342	23	5,201
Willow Grove	75	38	58	3	0.00	0	29.71	2.00	78	3,449	513	5,326

DFN = Departure from normal (using 1961-90 normals period).

Precipitation (rainfall or melted snow or ice) and pan evaporation in inches.

Precipitation days = days with precipitation of .01 inch or more.

Air temperatures in degrees Fahrenheit.

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Internet Reporters' Comments, By County:

Reporters are from Extension Service (Ext), Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), Farm Service Agency (FSA), Conservation District (CD), farmers, commodity specialists, or other knowledgeable individuals.

BUCKS COUNTY, Michael Fournier (EXT) – Corn harvest progressing well despite over 6 inches of rain from the hurricane. Yields have been exceptional on some farms; good to very good on most. Bean harvest, as well as wheat planting, is just getting started.

CAMBRIA COUNTY, Dolly Little (FSA) – Silage and potato harvesting are almost complete. Grain harvesting will be complete in the next few weeks.

CENTRE COUNTY, Dick Decker – Great week for field work.

CRAWFORD COUNTY, Ron McCorkle (NRCS) – Very good week for field work. Most of the corn silage in this area has been harvested, and some farmers are working on high moisture corn. A few farmers have started shelling and drying corn, commenting the moisture content was in the low twenties.

FRANKLIN COUNTY, Thomas A. Kerr (FSA) – A good week for harvest. Hay making continues as we have not yet had a killing frost. Corn is rapidly drying down and high moisture shelled corn is mostly harvested. There's still a lot of corn standing that will be harvested and dried for storage. Some yields are coming in near 200 bushels per acre on better soils. Soybeans are in the 40 to 50 bushel range so far. Apples turned out very well this year. Harvest was earlier than normal and yields were above the past few years.

FULTON COUNTY, Russ McLucas – Some of the corn yields we are seeing during custom harvesting are just "super to unreal."

SNYDER COUNTY, William C. Sheaffer – This was an excellent week that allowed several activities to take place and for corn and soybeans to dry down. The corn and soybean harvest is moving forward with excellent yields being reported. The seeding of wheat and barley is nearing completion. The grain that has emerged is looking very good. The activities included cutting silage, making hay, seeding wheat and barley, harvesting corn and soybeans, and winterizing equipment.

WESTMORELAND COUNTY, John Lohr (FSA) – Without rain it was another excellent harvesting week. The season's first frost early this week will speed corn and soybean drying. Excellent yields are being reported. The dry conditions also allowed for some nice final cuttings of hay to be made.

WESTMORELAND COUNTY, Eric Oesterling (EXT) – Winding down fruit and vegetable season. Still have Staymans, Romes and other late season apples to harvest. Perfect weather for harvest; fall work and Halloween season sales.

YORK COUNTY, Wayne Kurtz (FSA) – Ideal conditions have corn grain harvest in high gear. Soybean harvest is beginning. Numerous reports show corn 150 to 200+ bu/acre on a dry basis. Soybeans show 40 bu/acre up to 70 bu/acre. Some pumpkin producers have the largest yields ever and are finding it difficult to sell the entire crop. Fall planting of wheat should begin in earnest soon.

PA Crop Progress for Week Ending October 10, 2004

Crop	Current Week	Last Year	5-Year Average
	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Fall plowing	69	39	55
Corn, dent	99	86	92
Corn, mature	93	54	68
Corn, harvested	49	20	28
Corn silage, harvested	96	71	84
Barley, planted	90	51	66
Barley, emerged	47	24	45
Wheat, planted	56	26	42
Wheat, emerged	27	12	25
Soybeans, harvested	15	13	12
Potatoes, harvested	98	87	83
Alfalfa, 4th cutting	78	51	67
Apples, harvested	97	66	71
Grapes, harvested	75	31	70

PA Crop Condition for Week Ending October 10, 2004

Crop	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Corn	2	3	8	39	48
Soybeans	1	1	6	46	46
Quality of hay made	2	4	19	52	23
Pasture	7	5	22	48	18

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